

Supreme Judge.

Yesterday, at 4 before 12 o'clock, the Governor went to the Senate to name the name of Thomas L. Smith of New Albany, to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Bench. The nomination was rejected by a vote of 22 to 26—two democrats, Messrs. Barbour and Stewart, voting with the whigs in the negative. Mr. Tiber was absent on account of sickness.

We very much regret this result; because Mr. Smith is one of the most high-minded, honorable and intelligent men with whom it has been our good fortune to meet in Indiana for many years. His equanimity of temperament, as well as his diversified knowledge in general literature, politics, and business, as well as law, peculiarly fit him for an able, impartial and judicious exercise of the duties pertaining to the Bench of the Supreme Court. But regrets we suppose are useless. At least it would seem so in regard to the action of the present Legislature, on this or any other subject. We hope the time will sometime come, when the people will take into their own hands the exercise of such powers as are involved in this case.

Whig Proscription.

There never has been a more active and bitter spirit of political proscription manifested by any legislative body, within the range of our observation, than has marked the whole course of the present Legislature. And as if the Whigs were not proscriptive and bitter enough, many professed democrats have seemed to evince a disposition on several occasions, to give up advantages they possessed, and to play into the hands of their opponents. We expected this violation of proscription and bitterness in our own case, and do not feel disposed to complain on account of our grievances; but so indiscriminate a slaughter of all degrees of candidates from the highest to the lowest, can hardly find its parallel in the history of our State. This is the more remarkable from the fact, that the last election showed so great a popular majority against the party whose policy has been signified by this proscription. The fact is not to be concealed, that the political action of the Legislature has been one way, and that of the people has been the other. We trust that this violation of the public will, by an accidental majority, will not be without its influence upon the democracy of the State,—that they will see to it, that divided councils, and the ambition of candidates, shall not be permitted to deprive them of that ascendancy in the legislature, which their numbers entitle them to command. We say at parting, to those representatives of democratic districts, who "gave their voice against us" and other democratic candidates, that if they can abide the result, and the verdict of the people, so can we. If they can convince them that they have acted as become their representatives, standing in their stead, we shall be greatly mistaken. Meanwhile, we shall pursue our onward course, "unwaved by influence and unbridled by gain."

Prolongation of the Session.

Yesterday morning in the Senate, a resolution was introduced by Mr. Miliken of Dearborn, that the debate on the new Butler bill should cease at 12 o'clock, and that the Senate should proceed to vote on the bill. Up to that time the friends of the bill had had free scope, and had consumed a great deal of time in speaking in its favor. Few of the opponents of the measure as it was reported from the House had given their views at length, and it was stated that some thirty different amendments were pending, vitally affecting the great and important measure. The proposition thus suddenly to cut off debate and amendments, created much indignation among those who are called the opponents of the new measure; and Mr. Otis declared that he and twenty other Senators were ready to resign their seats, rather than thus be compelled to submit to "the gag." This resolution was defeated, and another resolution was proposed by the "friends," the effect of which was to extend the session to a longer time than had been previously agreed to, and which passed the Senate, and subsequently the House also. This resolution was the more readily agreed to, on account of the large number of bills, local and general, which otherwise would fail to pass for want of time. Had the Butler bill been the only measure depending, the result might have been different. We hope now, at least, that the new bill will be so amended as to carry out in good faith the provisions which it was understood the bill of last year was to accomplish,—that is, that the canal and its lands and revenues should satisfy one half of the whole debt, while at the same time no injustice shall be inflicted upon any class of the creditors of the State. With this the people will be satisfied; and in our opinion they will be satisfied with nothing less.

Constitutional Reform.

We have repeatedly called attention to the growing evils of special legislation, and we are glad that our brethren of the press are beginning to respond to the appeals made on behalf of the public interest in this respect. It seems to be the strong prevailing opinion at present, that all laws on the subject of holding general elections, the assessment and collection of taxes, and the formation of associated companies, should be general and uniform throughout the State. These results cannot be thoroughly secured without a revision of the constitution, though much may be done even now. A bill has been introduced, providing for the formation of associations of various kinds, without an act of incorporation; and the Legislature seem disposed to resist all efforts to make local exceptions to the mode of holding general elections. This is well as far as it goes, but it is only a part of the reform needed. The county boards should be differently constituted, and their powers enlarged. Many matters of merely local interest, could be far better legislated upon by them, than by the General Assembly.

Let power be kept as near the people as possible; let the powers of the townships be enlarged and those of the Legislature curtailed, and our word for it, the laws will be simpler, better, better understood, and more cheerfully acquiesced in, than at present.

By a letter from Senator Bright we learn the Senator Hannegan has been confined to his room for some weeks by rheumatism. This accounts for Mr. Hannegan's absence from his seat in the Senate. He expected to be able to attend the sittings of the Senate in a few days. The letter is dated Jan. 18th.

DEATH OF SENATOR PENNYBACKER.—No business was transacted in either House of Congress on Tuesday, the 12th inst., in consequence of the death of Senator Pennybacker, of Virginia, who expired in Washington on that morning. Mr. Archer made the announcement in the Senate and Mr. McDowell in the House. The usual resolutions of respect were then adopted, and both houses adjourned.

THE VIRGINIA REGIMENT.—We are gratified to announce, says the Richmond Enquirer, that the Secretary of War has agreed to accept two more companies, (making in all twelve,) to be armed with rifles and bayonets, and to act as flankers to the regiment. Virginia will thus furnish a fine legion. Thomas P. August, Esq., has been appointed adjutant of the Virginia regiment.

Sheets of four were made at Cincinnati on the 16th, at from \$3.50 to \$3.70.

HALL OF REPRESENTATIVES.

JANUARY 23, 1847.

MEMBERS, CHAPMAN & SPAN.—By publishing the accompanying letter from the Commissioners of the General Land Office, in your weekly, you will confer a favor on the citizens of the Miami Reserve.

Yours, &c. W. W. WICK.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

JANUARY 7th, 1847.

SIR:—In answer to your letter of the 25th ult., I have the honor to inform you, that the construction given by this office to the proviso in the first section of the act of 3d August, 1846, entitled "An act to grant the right of pre-emption to actual settlers on the land acquired by treaty from the Miami Indians in Indiana," is, that the minimum price of all the lands ceded by the Miami Indians, by the treaties of 1837, 1839, and 1840, is fixed thereby at two dollars per acre, whether claimed by pre-emption or not. Such, certainly, was the intention of Congress in passing this act, for the increase in the minimum specified in it, was caused by the fact, that these lands cost the Government considerably more than \$1.25-100 per acre. Very respectfully, your ob't serv't.

JAMES H. PIPER, Acting Com'r.

Hon. W. W. WICK, House of Rep's.

Below is a letter from Capt. Davis, of the Lawrence County Grays, refuting the charges against Lt. Gov. DUNNING, made by a few little sheets, who have nothing upon which to carp. It is gratifying to the friends of Mr. Dunning that men who have personal knowledge in this matter should voluntarily step forward and vindicate him from such foul and small charges of "extortion" and "stealing the name of a volunteer to come home on," &c.

While Mr. Dunning does not see proper to notice those things himself, he has papers and letters from individuals in the army, clearing him of all suspicion, which can be seen at any time. These will be received when the army has rested, or the time of service of the soldiers has expired, that time may be had for writing them. We are informed that Mr. Dunning, at the proper time, will show to the public those letters, freeing him from all suspicion.

The public sentiment is now right in the matter; but it is desired to show up to the people the true attitude of those men who make it a business to prey upon the character of others.

From the Bedford Sun.

CAMP BELKNAP, Dec. 5th, 1846.

SIR:—For the first time since my departure, I sit down to address you a few lines, and indeed I do not know that I should have written you at all, did I not feel it my duty to correct some of the rumors, or rather incorrect publications, which have made their appearance in the form of letters from the army, in different papers in our State, in regard to Paris C. Dunning.

It is true that Mr. D. was sometimes about our Sutter's concern, and it is equally true that it is generally believed that he was concerned or interested in it. But that he is the monster some would make him, is not true. In the first place, Mr. Dunning designed never to come here in the person of a soldier. He did not do so, and the facts are simply these. He was at that time a candidate for Lieut. Governor, as is also well known; and had a string of appointments out, one of which was on the very day that Captain Sluss's company was inspected and mustered into service. Now, you know he could not attend both places at the same time, and he was not any person else, now on what day the company would be mustered. Well, the company was mustered into service, and afterwards Mr. Dunning came and demanded to be enrolled as a private. But he was told he could not be received, and for these reasons—the company was already mustered into service, and was already larger than the limit of the company (Colonel Churchill) was willing to receive, he wishing to receive companies of only sixty-four, rank and file, and not larger; and he positively refused to muster Mr. D. into the service. This was not the only case of the kind that occurred in the organization of the Indiana Brigade.

Col. Churchill went still further, and refused to receive any company containing over sixty-four rank and file, any member which had been enrolled on the road to New Albany, or at that place. And after the companies were brought forward for inspection, he would require of the captain how many men he had, and if there was over that number, he would ask if any of them had been enrolled on the road to, or at that place, and if so order their names to be stricken off the roll.

Mr. Dunning being thus prevented from coming as a soldier, determined I suppose, to come in some other capacity. He came, and as far as I am capable of judging, behaved like a gentleman, as I think he is. It is true that when we first got here, and began to inquire the prices of our Sutter's goods, I thought them much too high, even for the price of extortion, but since that time I have had some opportunity of knowing the prices of goods among other dealers and have visited the city of Matamoros, and I find that there is but little difference in the prices there and among our Sutters. This was especially the case before Mr. Dunning left here, for all the boys agreed that when he was about the establishment they got the goods much lower than when he was not there; though in truth Mr. Dunning was seldom about the concern, the management of it being left almost entirely to Mr. P. M. Kent (of whom many hard things are said) and who I understood was Mr. Dunning's partner, and bought him out. Now there has been a great deal said about Mr. Dunning's selling whiskey half Rio Grande water, for five dollars a gallon, and all that sort of stuff. Any man in his right mind knows this is not so, for all are acquainted with the orders of Gen. Taylor prohibiting even the entrance of spirituous liquor into the mouth of the river—that it is seized and made forfeit, the one half the proceeds to the informant, the remaining half to the use of the sick. Is there a man in Indiana who is so green as to believe that Mr. Dunning or any other man would be permitted to sell whiskey if they were so disposed? Surely not. No sir. Every bottle that can be found with the smallest drop of spirits in it, is taken and the owner, if known, subjected to the penalties provided for the offense.

SOME PERSONS were permitted to put up tents near those of our Sutter, for the purpose of selling bread and pie to the soldiers who were accused of smuggling in whiskey and selling it to the men; and the tents were searched, and the ground near and about them perforated to ascertain the fact; and some whiskey was found. But all this was after Mr. Dunning had gone home. The way the culprits had to leave "these dignities" was rapid, I assure you.

The public generally should be slow to form opinions founded on crude and exaggerated letters from the boys in the army. They know that any thing from the army creates quite an excitement at home, and many of them are in the habit of gratifying their personal enmities in this way. I have seen many letters published from here and all with more or less exaggeration, and some indeed utterly unfounded in truth.

I will say something now about our situation, and our prospect for active service. The prospect is now tolerably good. Two regiments of our brigade will leave in the course of a few days for Monterey—the 2d and 3d. The first is still stationed at the mouth of the Rio Grande and is likely to remain there. We now begin to think we shall have some share of the fighting, but we once thought it a bad chance. In fact we almost began to think that old Rough and Ready did not know us at all, or that there were any such things in the world. The boys looked very sour in those times; you would have thought some of them would have given fifty cents out of fifty, and risk living on the remainder, to have been in the battle of Monterey. All is cheerfulness now, however, and they are much elated with the speedy prospect of moving into the interior of Mexico. I cannot tell you to what point you are going, but think it very probable that we will join Gen. Taylor, and move towards Vera Cruz—though I am in the dark at this time. This much is certain, we are to embark on steam boats for Camargo, and go from thence to Saltillo via Monterey by land. Where next I know not, but we are in good order, and we have over seven hundred men and have lost only 31 by death.

The boys in my company are generally well, except some few cases of mumps. We will not be compelled to leave over six for sickness, when we move, and they will be left at Matamoros. As I have nothing further of interest to communicate, I will now close. Yours, &c.

HENRY DAVIS,

Capt. Lawrence Grays.

Congress.

SENATE, JANUARY 14.—The Committee on Naval Affairs reported a bill for the appointment of Assistant Surgeons in the Navy, and increasing the relative proportion of Surgeons to Seamen. Mr. Benton reported the bill for the addition of ten Regiments to the Army, with amendments relative to the force and description of troops—the amendments were adopted. Mr. Cameron moved an amendment giving a quarter section of land to each soldier who should serve during the present war. This elicited a discussion which was participated in by Messrs. Benton, Cameron, Clayton, Bridge, Corwin, and Crittenden. Further consideration of the Army Bill laid over until tomorrow.

HOUSE.—The bill changing the time of holding the District Court of the United States in the State of Alabama was passed. The House then went into committee of the whole on the Oregon bill, and Mr. Burke occupied the floor for some time in a defense of the attitude of the South, and of Slavery.

Mr. Pettit, of Indiana, followed.

Mr. Seaman, of New York, introduced a bill to prevent the importation of foreigners into this country. Mr. S. is a "Native."

MESSRS. EDITORS:—The following complimentary notice of my humble self, appeared in the last "Washington Courier," a paper which, as I learn, is printed in that great centre of the great west, the city of Terre Haute:

"We would recommend the State Sentinel to make every exertion to have correspondents 'Nemo,' elected President of the 'Highly Inflated Soft-Sawdust Company,' as the way in which 'Nemo' plasters the members of the Legislature fully entitles him to that office—with the title of A. S. S."

I am delighted to find, that among the improvements of this age of improvement, so useful a society as the one mentioned above has been instituted; and that as it would seem, Terre Haute has the honor of its foundation.

I take it that the object of the article is to convey a modest hint, that a sketch of the editor or his substitute, or both, would be acceptable; for the sub, is evidently impressed with the idea that I am one of those philanthropists, who are engaged in the laudable task of "elevating the masses;" or in other words, puffing men of purile and mediocre capacity, into something resembling respectability.

Acting on this hint, I have endeavored to collect such facts as I might, in addition to those that fame has already trumpeted to the world; and I will give the result in a sketch of

TWO HEADS EDITORIAL.

The editor of the Courier, is one of the greatest living authors of the present age; he having produced Stephen Morland, Mount Echo, and E. Worthington. Who that ever read a book, has not devoured with rapture the pages of Stephen Morland, a book so replete with the loftiest flights of imagination, the most refined fancies and the finest strokes of wit?

What, for instance, can be more facetious than this passage, imprinted on my brain by the burning iron of memory, and which is but a single specimen of the author's felicity of thought and expression?

"She knew that I knew that she knew what I meant, and I knew that she knew that I knew what she meant."

Did ever Cervantes, Swift or Fielding produce such a gem of wit? Mount Echo has not been given to the world, excepting a few morsels, just to tantalize and whet the keen appetite of public expectation; but it is not one whit behind its illustrious predecessor, and when its author shall send it forth, its echo will doubtless reverberate to all time. But the greatest prodigy of all is E. Worthington. Not a fictitious production, though a novel indeed. Of him it may be said, as of Alexander the great, that he as far outshone his father, as the latter excelled all other men of his time. If the father is major, the son is maximus. If the wit of the father warns and cheers the world, the sallies of the son, like the fiery chariot driven by Phaeton, burns and scorches it from east to west.

In a word, he is the author of the article quoted above, the chasteness of whose style and the purity of its diction, are in perfect keeping with the refinement and elegance of thought which it evinces.

Yours to serve, NEMO.

E. W. MCGAUGHEY.—This gentleman has been "letting off" in Congress in a tirade of abuse against the administration and the war. Ned's speeches we think will take better among some of his Hendricks county brethren than they will with the members of Congress. The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Times refers to his speech, and uses the following language:

"Mr. McGaughey, a young member from Indiana, seized the introduction of the army bill as an occasion for indulging in the worn-out, hackneyed invective against the war and the administration, which more sensible persons of his party have used before a dozen times. If Mexico owed us fifty millions of dollars, he would not touch a square acre of her territory in liquidation of the debt—not he; and such men will thrust their crude undigested ideas on the House, to the protraction of important business."

MASSACHUSETTS WHIG PATRIOTISM.—In the Massachusetts Legislature, a few days ago, the Hon. Caleb Cushing asked leave to introduce a resolution appropriating the sum of \$20,000 to be expended for the equipment and support of the Mexican volunteers from that State. It was laid on the table by a vote of 171 to 61.

The Boston Post states that Mr. Keyes, a whig member of the Massachusetts legislature said "he would cut off his right hand before he would hold it up in favor of any proposition to afford any aid whatever to this infamous war with Mexico."

Mr. Bird, another whig member, said "he would tell the drivers in this infernal Mexican war, that they were to expect no aid from Massachusetts."

The Boston Traveller understands that the American Peace Society have taken steps to offer a large premium (\$500) for an impartial but strong and searching review of the Mexican war, in its origin, progress, and results, pecuniary, political and moral; the work to be published after the close of the war—if it should come to a close soon, and to be circulated generally throughout the land, as a warning against similar evils in future."

Yes, and for the same sum (\$500) the American Peace Society would be able to obtain a strong and searching pamphlet against the war of our independence, and some "smart" Massachusetts "federalist" of the modern breed would be the writer.

UNITED STATES BANK.—The annual report of this expired institution states that "the Trustees, under the assignments of the 4th and 6th of Sept. 1841, have paid off all the judgments which had been obtained against the bank previous to the preceding rates, as required by the said assignment." In regard to the loans due by the bank in Europe, for which State Stocks and bonds were pledged for their redemption, there has been no material change during the year.

An immense solar spot, about 30,000 miles in diameter, is now visible between the sun's centre and his eastern limb. Several other spots of less magnitude, which recently crossed the sun's disc, have disappeared.

ARKANSAS.—The Legislature of this State have passed an Act, commonly denominated "The Woman's Bill," which exempts all the property of a married woman, real or personal, not received from her husband after coverture, from liability for his debts or contracts.

The Tea and Coffee Duty.

The resolution adopted the other day by the House of Representatives to the effect that it is inexpedient to lay a duty on tea and coffee, does not appear to us as conclusive as to the fate of that measure in Congress. It certainly indicates that the House is not yet ready to lay it, but that as at present advised it is disinclined to it—but it indicates in our opinion nothing more. That disinclination will give way to any reasonable argument in favor of the necessity of such a duty to raise a revenue or to sustain the credit of the government.

This may be fairly inferred, we think, from the explanation which Mr. Thompson, of Pennsylvania, gave of his vote the next morning. He had voted, he said, for the resolution, but he was still willing to vote for the duty, if it could be made to appear that it was important to the credit of the government that it should be laid. It would be paying a bad compliment to the House to suppose that it does not contain many members as reasonable as Mr. Thompson. The same inference may also be fairly drawn from the circumstances under which the resolution was passed. It was passed without premeditation, without consideration, without discussion. It is one of those temporary proceedings of a deliberative body which is the result of a hasty consideration; one of those steps which such a body never thinks it becoming its dignity to retract; one of those crude and casual expressions of opinion concerning a question not yet examined, to which it does not consider itself bound by any pride of consistency to adhere.

The argument against the duty on tea and coffee, as we understand it, is that these articles are not at all used by the slaves, who form so large a part of the population of the south, and therefore that the duty on their importation would be paid mostly by the people of the north and west. There is a mistake in the premises here. It is not a fact that tea and coffee are not consumed by the slave population. The field is almost everywhere sown with these articles, and the field almost everywhere does not receive them as part of their daily allowance, procure them by their casual earnings, just as the men among them procure tobacco and the women their ribbons and other finery in which they flaunt on Sundays.

This view of the matter places the duty on tea and coffee upon precisely the same footing with the duty on sugar and molasses—the duties on a vast variety of productions which form the food of man, or its condiments, on a thousand fabrics which are made into garments, and a thousand articles which minister to the convenience and comfort of life. The field slaves of the south have their allowance of food in the products of the plantation, and are clothed in the coarsest and cheapest cottons and woolsens. If we are to regulate our tariff so as to exempt from taxation what they do not consume, we shall strike from the list of dutiable articles the greater part of the merchandise imported. Books and stationary must be admitted free for a stronger reason than tea and coffee, for a slave never reads a book nor drives a quill.

The duty on silks must be taken off without delay; the duty on foreign fruits, both dried and fresh, must be repealed. Let him who attaches any weight to the argument that a duty on tea and coffee would bear unequally on the north and the west because the planter of the south does not issue them in rations to his slaves, take the tariff in his hands, review the list of duties, and draw a pencil through all to which the same objection can be urged, and he will have a list of commodities he will reduce the sources of revenue from the customs.

We have imposed a tax on salt, an article of indispensable necessity, and of absolutely universal consumption; we tax sugar, a commodity of more general use than tea and coffee, and the immoderate consumption of which causes, as tea and coffee sometimes does, degeneration into a vice; we tax iron, the great necessary of civilization, in all its forms; we tax cloths of woolen and cotton, though indispensable to life; we tax fuel, though we cannot support existence without it. We think it expedient to tax all these; and in many of them we lay the impost without discussion, the question of putting them on the free list is a luxury and a refinement, not a necessity, essential to the simplest form of civilized life, and some of them to the very continuance of life itself in our climate, is borne without complaint; but the moment we talk of laying a moderate impost on a narcotic leaf from China, and a narcotic berry from the Arabian peninsula and the isles of the tropic, we are told that we are taxing luxury and refinement, and that the representatives of the people rise up almost to a man, and declare the measure inexpedient; as if, of all articles of general consumption, these alone were too sacred to be subjected to the common contribution to the treasury. This is a kind of superstition that we confess we do not understand.

The country is in a condition in which it is important to raise revenue. How can this be done if the government refuses to avail itself of those resources which are most easy, obvious and productive? To satisfy the public creditor that his debt is safe, he must see that none of those means that make it so are neglected. There is no tax which can more easily be levied than the duty on tea and coffee, none on which the revenue may be more certainly calculated, none the burden of which would be less felt by the people. To increase the duty on the articles already taxed would probably lessen the amount of revenue by discouraging imports. By laying a duty on tea and coffee, a large addition would inevitably be made to our revenue. To reject a proposition for such a duty is the same thing as rejecting the means of placing the credit of the nation on the firmest possible basis.—N. Y. Eve. Post.

The new Constitution of Wisconsin provides for the security of the wife's separate property; also, that the homestead, not exceeding in value one thousand dollars, shall not be sold on execution. Banking is prohibited; also the circulation of bank notes under the denomination of ten dollars; and after 1849, under the denomination of twenty dollars. The question of negro suffrage is to be submitted to a direct vote of the people.

WISCONSIN.—Under the constitution of Wisconsin, the House of Representatives is to consist of 79 members, and the Senate 21, making in all 100. Session to be annual. Members' pay, \$2 per day for the first forty days, and \$1 per day for the remainder of the session. The Convention recommends a division of the territory.

The bill "to prevent any married man from becoming security without the consent of his wife," has been reported on adversely by the committee on the Judiciary in the Missouri Legislature, and the House have been ungallant enough to sanction the report.

PRaiseworthy Munificence.—A correspondent of the New York Courier and Enquirer says that he has personally inquired of all houses in the city known as remitters of small sums to Ireland by drafts on that country, and has ascertained that the immigrant Irish population have remitted during the year 1846 eight hundred and eight thousand dollars! Of this sum \$175,000 have been remitted within the last two months.

The following is an extract of a letter from Monterey:

"The Mexican women are very kind to our sick, and pity the wounded much, embracing every opportunity of alleviating their distress and promoting their comfort."

Thus it is with women in all countries. Their gentle spirit is ever swayed by the kindest feelings. It is in the exercise of works of benevolence and charity that she loves to luxuriate. In ministering to the wants of others, she is but obeying the most impulsive instinct of her generous nature.

Sudden Death.—David Bain, of Bath, Steuben county, N. Y., who was married to Miss Eliza Wallington on the evening of the 23d ult., died on Thursday (the next night). He retired to bed that evening in ordinarily good health, and during the night his young wife awoke and found him dead by her side. He was about 40 years of age.

Commodore Morris and Capt. Saller, of the U. S. Navy, arrived at Norfolk on Tuesday.

Later from the Gulf Squadron.

Capture of Laguna.—American Prisoners Released.

Commodore Perry arrived at Laguna on the 20th ult., with the steamers Mississippi, Vixen, Petrel and Bonita, and landed the same day and took nine hundred pounds of powder, destroyed fifteen cannon, and disarmed about fifty soldiers, although they affected to be favorably disposed to the cause of the Campechians. The Campechians had declared themselves entirely independent of Mexico, and had sent three commissioners on the Schooner Sisalito, to Com. Connor, at Anton Lizardo, to request him to desist from any hostile measures against Yucatan, until commissioners could be sent to the government of the United States, to obtain the recognition of the independence of the State. These commissioners left Anton Lizardo on the 20th, to return, but the result of their conference with Commodore Connor is not known.

We regret to learn that Purser Andrew D. Crosby, of the Mississippi, was lost from on board the Vixen, entering Laguna. He was in the rigging of the vessel, as the fidelity of the pilot (a Mexican, the man who was piloting the Truxton, when she was lost at Tuxpan), was suspected; the vessels giving a heavy haul, he lost his hold and fell on the deck, and was instantly killed. He was buried with military honors in the cemetery of the British Consul at Laguna.

Passed Midshipman Fitzgerald, formerly of the U. S. schooner Flirt, but now attached to the John Adams, performed a most daring exploit about a week since. His vessel was blockading Vera Cruz, and of a dark night he took a boat and eight men with muffled oars, rowed around the Castle of San Juan d'Ulloa, entered the water battery and examined it; then rowed around again, went under the drawbridge, and made a thorough reconnaissance of that point. This exploit has proved that men may be landed from boats at night, and Midshipman Fitzgerald ascertained by his reconnaissance that the water battery may be easily taken.

The Armado was taken off Alvarado, together with the Spanish brig Isabella, both sailing from that port for Havana. Commodore Perry, on his return to Anton Lizardo from Laguna with the Mississippi, looked into Talaseco and Alvarado, and found that the fortifications of both places have been repaired and much strengthened since they were attacked by the squadron. At Talaseco there were about 3000 troops, and at Alvarado about 4000. Notwithstanding these formidable preparations, the general impression is that Commodore Connor will soon attack that place.

On the arrival of Gen. La Vega at Vera Cruz on the 15th, all the prisoners from the squadron in the hands of the enemy were released. It is now ascertained that but eleven of the crew of the brig Somers drifted to the shore in the vessel in which she was wrecked, and not sixteen, as was first stated. Midshipman Rogers was at Vera Cruz. He had been tried by the civil and military tribunals as a spy, and had been acquitted by the former, but found guilty by the latter. It was believed, however, that the more favorable verdict would prevail, and that he would be liberated.

TAMPAICO, Mexico, Dec. 26, 1846.

The alarm for the safety of the city has subsided. Troops are arriving in considerable numbers; fortifications are progressing rapidly, and we shall soon be in a position to defy any force that may be sent against us. It appears to me, that the operations of the Army and Navy are now more to the purpose than at any previous time. Other posts have been taken at a great loss of life, and time, and treasure, and the opinion is ventured, that none of them—not even Monterey—perhaps all of them together—are of as much consequence as the capture of Tampico, which probably will be made the naval as well as the military depot for future operations.

Tampico is situated on the left bank of the river of the same name, eight miles from its mouth. It leads among the mountains, near the city of Mexico, and is said to be navigable about 100 miles up. In a commercial point of view, perhaps this place is of more importance in Mexico than the rest of the city is a small lake of pure water, which communicates with the river by a little canal, through which the tide sets. The head of this lake is surrounded by high grounds, overlooking the city and the adjacent country. On these grounds and at the foot of the lake, fortifications are rapidly progressing, and a large number of laborers are employed in the work. This is curious, and I very much doubt whether an invading army at Boston or New York, could get the Yankees to help them fortify.

In the revolution, a British officer could hardly get a Boston boy to do an errand. The fact is (so far as I can understand it) the middling and lower classes desire a change, and this will apply to almost the whole population. They are ridden to death by the aristocracy and the clergy of the land. Far from being stupid, they are sprightly, shrewd and intelligent; they know the privileges of citizens of the United States, and long to partake of them.

My views in relation to the Mexican war are somewhat changed. I believe it should be vigorously prosecuted, not only to procure justice to ourselves, but to this oppressed people. I believe it should be a war of conquest. This is startling doctrine, but I verily believe that a large majority of this people desire this result. Mind, it should not be done for national aggrandizement, but for the benefit of the conquered. I have not time or room to give all my reasons for coming to this conclusion. I would barely remark, that a monopoly in religion is as bad, or worse, than a monopoly in money or property. Here the priests, in connection with the aristocracy of wealth, lord it over the great mass of the people, and "grind them to powder." I would conquer the country, and give the people a liberal constitution—predicated upon democratic principles—and if necessary, sustain that constitution by force of arms. I would give them schools and colleges—equal means of acquiring information as well as property—at present they possess them not—but, above all, I would deliver them from the thralldom of a national church.

One generation, under a liberal and enlightened government, would accomplish more towards the promotion of the real happiness and interests of this people than has been effected in all past time. Only think—Mexico was conquered and colonized by Cortes, under the then most enlightened and powerful nation in the world, a hundred years before the poor, solitary colony of Pilgrims at Plymouth. This is the finest climate and the richest soil in the world—that cold and sterile. Now, what is the relative position of the two countries—Mexico and New England? The contrast is sickening. What is the cause of the difference? What the remedy? And who shall apply it?

TAMPAICO, Dec. 27, 1846.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—We have no news. An alarm is occasionally got up, that the Mexicans, like the Philistines, "are upon us," but no one heeds them, and should an attempt be made, even by the whole Mexican army combined, they could not carry the city but at great loss. The President's message has been received, and gives in relation to the war, great universal satisfaction. Business is very dull, and adventures with heavy stocks of goods look blank. No news from the fleet.

Yours, truly, M. J. S.

A court of inquiry was convened on board the Potomac on the 16th, to investigate the cause of the loss of the brig Somers, recently capsized in a squall off Green Island. The result of the investigation, it was generally understood in the squadron, is an acquittal of the commander, Lieut. Semmes, of all blame for the loss of the vessel. The six or eight of the crew that drifted on shore after the loss of that unfortunate vessel, were still held as prisoners by the Mexicans.

C. L. DUNHAM, Esq.—By an attentive perusal of the proceedings of our State Legislature, since it has been in session, we have noticed that Mr. CYRUS L. DUNHAM, the representative from Washington county, has been one of the most active and industrious members of that body. As a member of the committee on the judiciary, he has been unceasing in his labors, and prompt in the disposition of such business as came before that committee. We consider Mr. Dunham before that committee